

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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July 6, 1937

Hon. George J. Stobie  
Commissioner Inland Fisheries and Game  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Commissioner:

Complaints have been received at this office that damage has been done to the dam which was erected last year at the foot of Highland Lake, otherwise called Duck Pond, in Westbrook, and that this damage has been caused by people of both sexes who have gone to the dam for the purpose of swimming.

I understand that the large bronze marker which was placed on the dam was forcibly removed and has disappeared and that attempts have been made to operate the wheel controlling the flow of water, and that some damage has been done to the screen.

This dam was erected, as you know, by the W.P.A. on land which was purchased by the cottage owners surrounding the lake and deeded to the State and both the dam and the land on which it sits are the property of the State. I have told representatives of the Duck Pond Improvement Association, who are the people most vitally interested in having this property protected, that the State has an obligation to protect this property and that both State and city officials should take steps to prevent further trespassing on this piece of State property.

In my opinion, in view of the damage that has already been done, the State should take steps to see that parties do not use the State property, including the dam, for swimming and bathing purposes.

Very truly yours,

(Franz U. Burkett)  
Attorney General

FUB MB